

Speaker offers look into Civil Rights activist's life

By Hayley Burgess
News Editor

Author and Civil Rights historian Dr. Katherine Mellen Charron spoke Feb. 4 in the Mary Livermore Library about her new book, "Freedom's Teacher" as a part of UNCP's celebration of Black History Month.

The book is a biography of the life of Septima Clark, a civil rights leader and citizenship teacher who taught African Americans in the 1950s so they could become eligible to vote.

Clark was born in 1898 in Charleston, S.C., and began her teaching career in 1916. She was a member of the NAACP, she helped develop a citizenship school in Tennessee and joined a women's club that helped organize the Immunization Clinic for children on Johns Island, S.C., in the 1950s before retiring in 1970.

Dr. Charron discussed three moments in Clark's life which included Clark being a citizenship teacher, joining a women's club and being

involved in the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee.

Out of all of these moments, Dr. Charron believes that her being a Citizenship School teacher was the most important because it led to political action during the Civil Rights movement.

"Clark's Citizenship School curriculum tied learning directly to social change through political action," Dr. Charron said.

Dr. Charron said that although she admires men who were Civil Rights activists, like Martin

Luther King Jr., she has always admired the men and women who followed them.

"I always was more interested in the people who are behind King," Dr. Charron said. "Where did these people get the courage to do this? They got it from Citizenship Schools."

Dr. Charron teaches history at NC State University and is co-editor of William Henry Singleton's "Recollections of my Slavery Days."



Photo by Tony Lewis
Dr. Katherine Charron reads an excerpt from her book "Freedom's Teacher" Feb. 4 at the Mary Livermore Library. Dr. Charron's presentation was part of UNCP's celebration of Black History Month.

Library poetry/prose contest offers recognition for writing

By Grant Merritt
Web Video Editor

If you write poetry and short prose, you could win monetary prizes from the Friends of the Library and Kiwanis Club of Robeson-Lumberton annual poetry/short prose contest.

According to Coordinator of Cataloging Services and coordinator of the contest Jean Sexton, all entries should be typed, 500 words or less and postmarked by March 1.

"If they are handwritten," Sexton said. "They are going in the trash."

There are three levels in which UNCP students, high school students, and the general public 18 years or older can enter their poetry or short prose. Each person is allowed to

submit one entry.

Sexton said that the Kiwanis Club of Robeson-Lumberton will award \$250 to the first place winner, \$150 to the second place winner and \$100 to the third place winner in the high school level.

All high school students in Robeson County and all high school students in counties that border Robeson County are allowed to enter the contest.

The Friends of the Library will award the first, second and third place winners in the UNCP student and general public levels.

"In the general public level, I've had people from Nebraska enter the contest and someone from New York to place in the top three," Sexton said.

According to Sexton, she created and coordinated the contest for the past 10 years, and she is really excited about this 11th year.

"It [the contest] has grown over the years," Sexton said. "It's more of a competition now, and the quality of the writing has gone up."

Sexton gave some helpful hints for the contest as well. She said to let a friend read aloud your entry to see if it makes sense and to never put your name on the entry.

"You know, a lot of people are recognized for playing sports, but how many people are recognized for writing? Not that many," Sexton said.

The recognition ceremony will be held on April 7.

Author says to follow dreams at African American Read-In

By Ashely Williams
Staff Writer

Author Eleanora E. Tate urged an audience Feb. 2 in the main reading room of Mary Livermore Library to follow their dreams.

Tate's presentation as part of the African American Read-In was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs (OMMA), the Friends of the Library, the School of Education and the university's chapter of the NAACP. The Read-In has been endorsed by the International Reading Association.

Tate is a former newspaper reporter, originally from Canton, Mo., who now lives in Knightdale, N.C. Tate said that she began to write in third

grade and that she wrote her first book in sixth grade.

According to professor for the School of Education Dr. Betty Brown, Tate frequently presents at national conferences and speaks at different school districts. Brown said that Tate recently spoke to teachers of Hoke County Schools.

Tate read excerpts from her books, "The Secret of Gumbo Grove," "A Blessing in Disguise," "Thank You Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." and "Celeste's Harlem Renaissance." Three of those books are a part of what Tate called her Carolina trilogy.

Tate is a part of the National Association of Black Storytellers Incorporated. Tate encouraged people to give

books to homeless shelters or start a library at a local church.


"The event was great. I liked the presentation," said Gwen Rainer of Laurinburg.

"I enjoyed it. It was interesting and entertaining. She seemed to be very passionate about her writing," said OMMA Administrative Support Associate Lisa Bullard.

"It was real good. I enjoyed it. It was nice," said library circulation desk worker Chris Bowyer.

According to Dr. Brown, an NC Quest grant paid for Tate's trip to the University.

Refreshments were available after Tate spoke. According to Bullard, approximately 40 people attended the event.




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Multicultural and Minority Affairs



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UPCOMING EVENTS

@ OMMA:

February 11 @ 6:00 p.m.
Diversity Film Series
"Higher Learning"
Multicultural Center, Room 129

February 18 & 25
Black History Program
3rd Annual African American Read In:
Literacy Program

March 11
Women's History Program
TBA

March 16 @ 12:00 noon
Diversity Education Cafe
"Global Perspectives on Feminism"
Multicultural Center, Room 129

March 30 @ 6:00 p.m.
Diversity Film Series
"No!"
Multicultural Center, Room 129

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Mission

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs of UNC Pembroke provides programs and services that support the academic mission of the University by enhancing the educational, personal, cultural and social development of UNCP's students of color. As an agent of change, the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs seeks to value cultural diversity in order to promote an empowered society.

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